

# The Valley COMIC NEWS



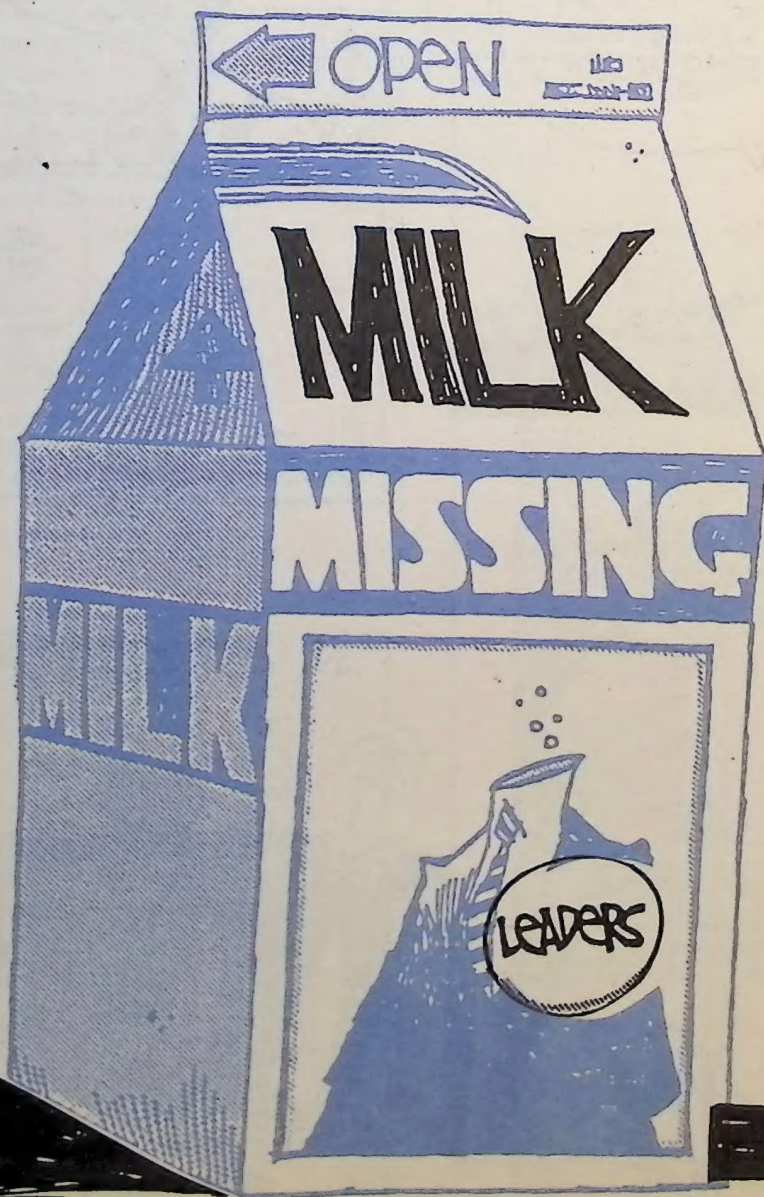
EPISODE # 67  
July 9, 1992

**FREE**

**FEATURES:** THE FAR SIDE, DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS, VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, THE BRASS AND FERN,  
EARTHWEEK, IZZY GESELL'S *HUMOR ME*,  
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD, THIS MODERN WORLD,  
LOCAL HEROES

**STORIES:**  
EARTH TO GEORGE...OVER...  
COURTING DISASTER  
PATRIOT GAMES  
ALL OPPOSED, SAY "NAY"  
OTHER STUFF

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WOT HANDELSMAN





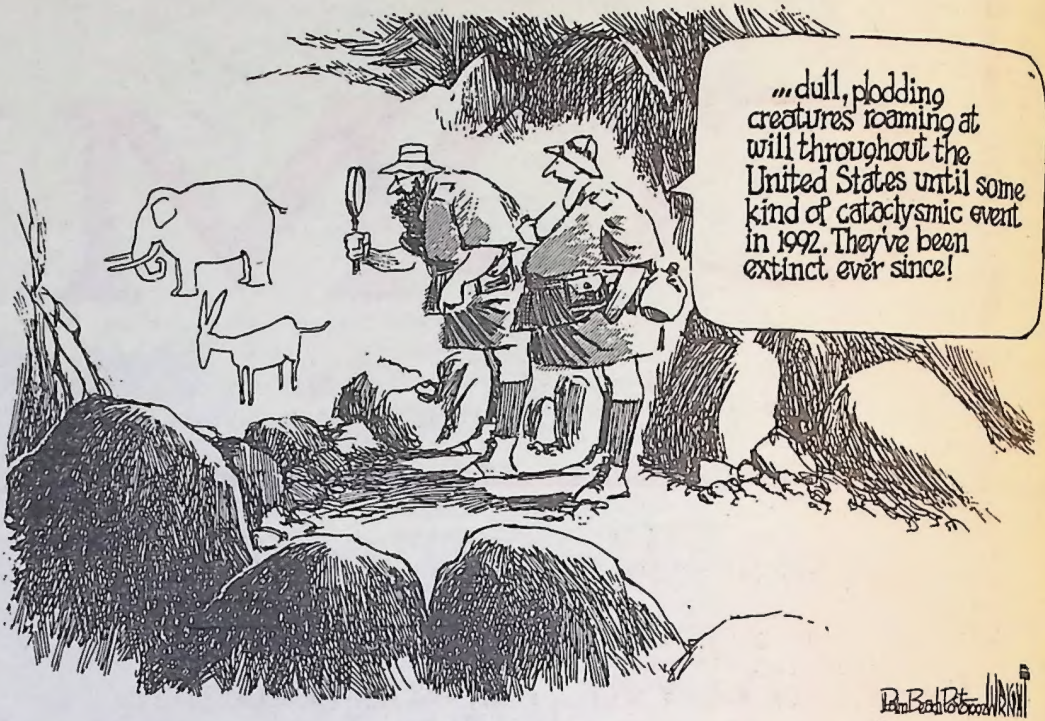
# ALL OPPOSED, SAY 'NAY'

HOW TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS?

"OPERATION MOTOR VOTER" WOULD SIGN THEM UP WHEN THEY RENEW THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES

MAKES MORE SENSE TO SIGN THEM UP WHEN THEY BUY T.V.S...

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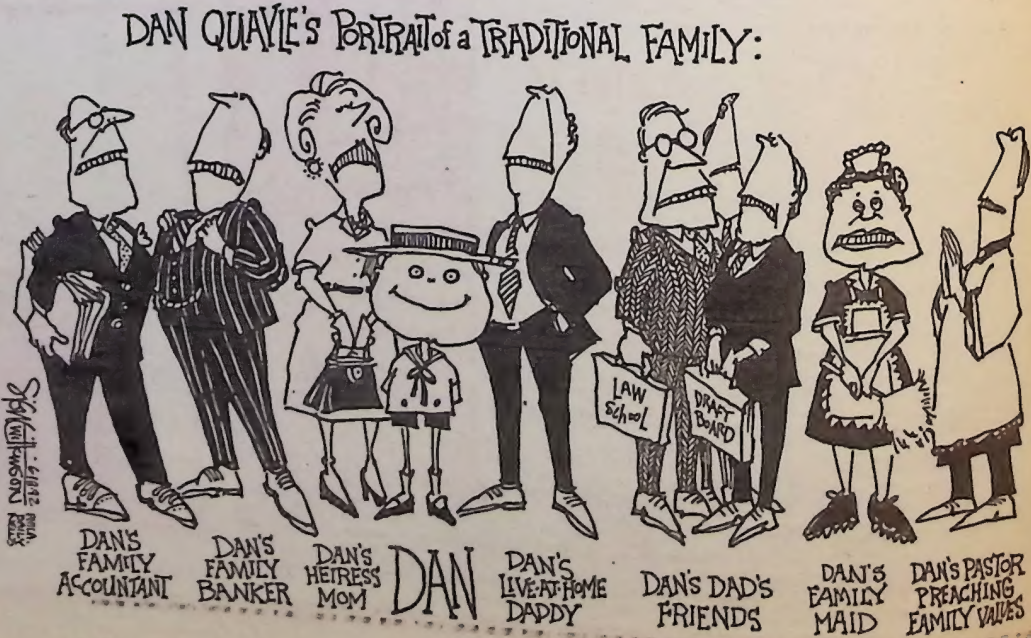


IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WATERGATE...

IN REMEMBRANCE OF NIXONIAN PARANOIA AND POLITICAL SURVEILLANCE...

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE OF THE CONSPIRATORIAL MIND...

WE GIVE YOU THE CANDIDACY OF H. ROSS PEROT!!





# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

I hope none of you were listening to the Jerry Williams Talk Show recently, when he conducted his 12th annual phone survey of Women Revealing Their Unbelievably Private Sex Secrets. I say I hope you weren't listening because this sort of thing shouldn't be overheard by anybody except serious researchers, like me. I'm mature enough to spend several afternoons overhearing Jerry Williams ask complete strangers the kinds of questions that if I asked a complete stranger, I would be immediately tossed in the slammer. Here's an example:

So, what about your sex life?

My what?

Your sex life — what's your favorite position?

I'm sorry, I thought the show was about *pet* life.

This broadcast could never have happened when I was a boy. Back then, the most scandalous thing a woman might publicly admit is that she voted differently than her husband, or that she routinely played better bridge than he did. Tell you one thing: she sure as spit would never mention what those *featherdusters* were doing in her *nightstand*.

And get this: one woman called to reveal that she and her husband had started a club for spanking! And she didn't mean her four-year-old. Really! These people, somewhere in New England, get together three times a year, and *spank* each other. No sex, she said — just an occasional bare bottom, very civilized. I'll bet.

"So, Morty, how's the golf game?"

"Oww!"

"That kid in college yet, Cerise?"

"Ouch ouch ouch!"

We know this sort of behavior has been around since the birth of our great nation, for example in the oft-quoted Federalist of Hollywood Papers, where James Madison debated Alexander Hamilton de Sade over whether it was more important to bear arms or to bare bottoms. Madison won, of course, which is why today we have drive-by shootings instead of drive-by birchings.

But even though we know people *do* this stuff, is it normal to call up somebody you've never met to *tell* them about it? Kind of like if I dialed a wrong number, and instead of saying I'm sorry, started to describe how I use a gum massager.

I think it's really the fault of the Sixties, which are getting a lot of bad press these days, mostly from people who didn't used to believe in money or clothes or corporations and now have corporate suits paying them wheelbarrows of money to write rotten things about themselves. If this were Russia, we'd call it "revisionism." Instead it's America, so we call it "turning into greedy dollar-heads like we swore we'd never do."

Because in the Sixties, people started "doing their own thing." Nowadays people can't "do their own thing", because it's illegal, or they'll lose their standing in the community if somebody finds out, or they might die from it. So instead, they (anonymously) call talk show hosts to compare erogenous zones. It's a far cry from a love-in, but then Jerry Williams isn't Ken Kesey, either. I'll leave it to you to decide if that's a good thing.

## The Valley Comic News

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Little Dan Quayle sat on his tail,  
Searching for wisdom to utter.  
But when he got there, the cortex was bare,  
So he shrugged, "Guess I'll drive with my putter."

Little George Bush sat on his tush,  
Letting Saddam eat the Kurds.  
He weighed their net worth, and -- finding a dearth --  
Decided their stock's not preferred.

Wit & wisdom of Matthew Winer

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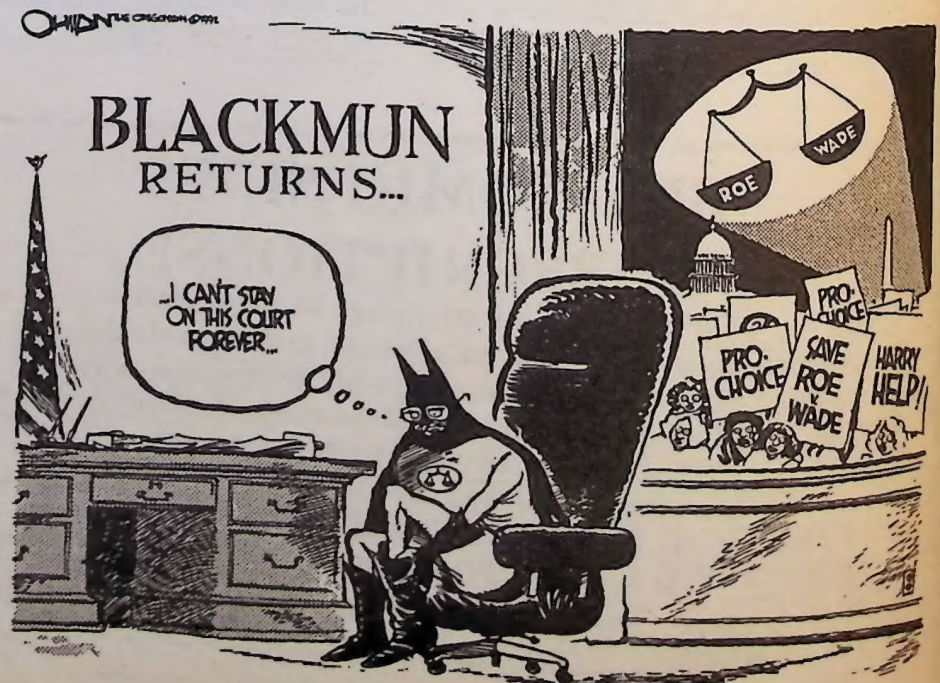
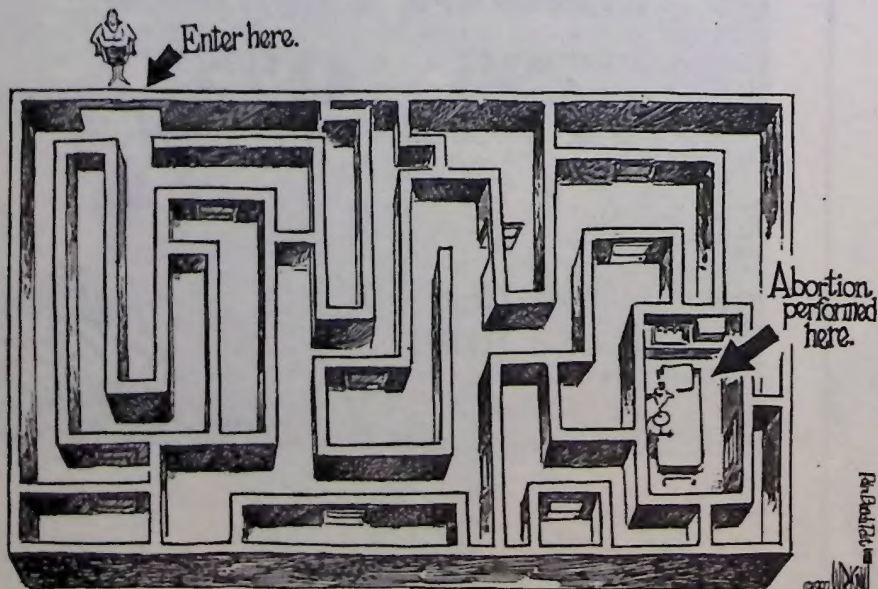
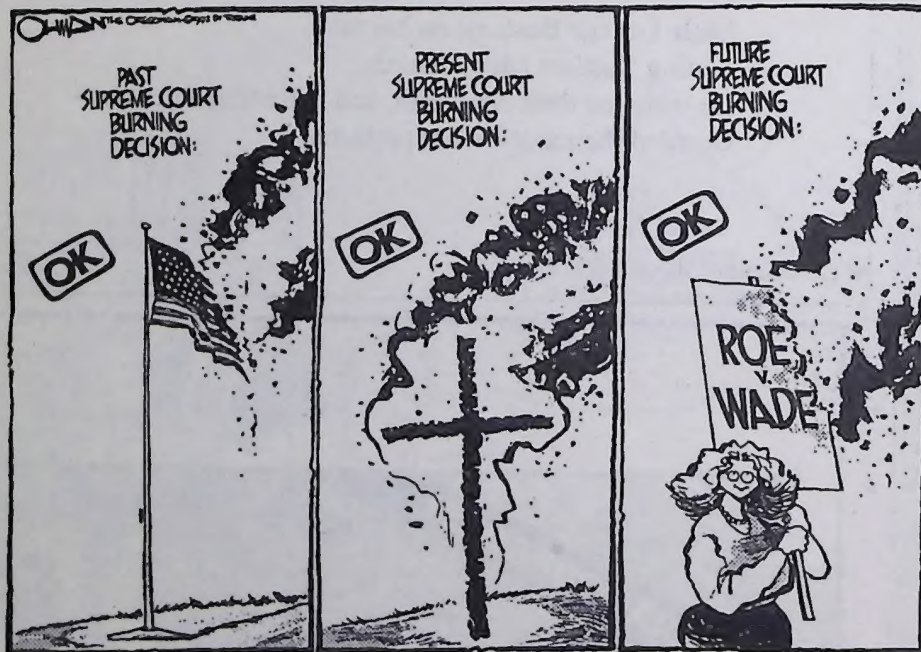
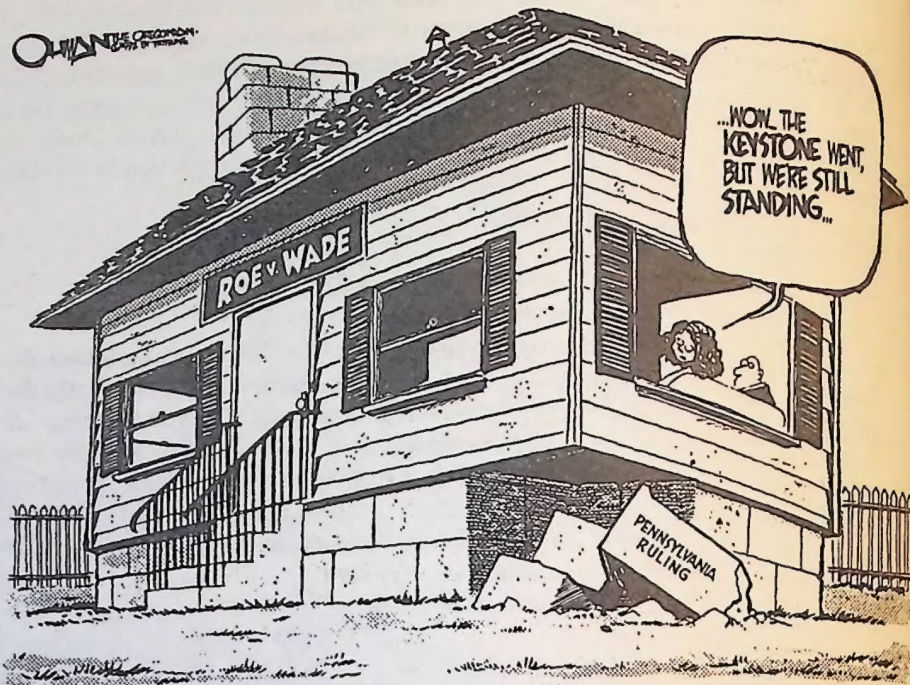
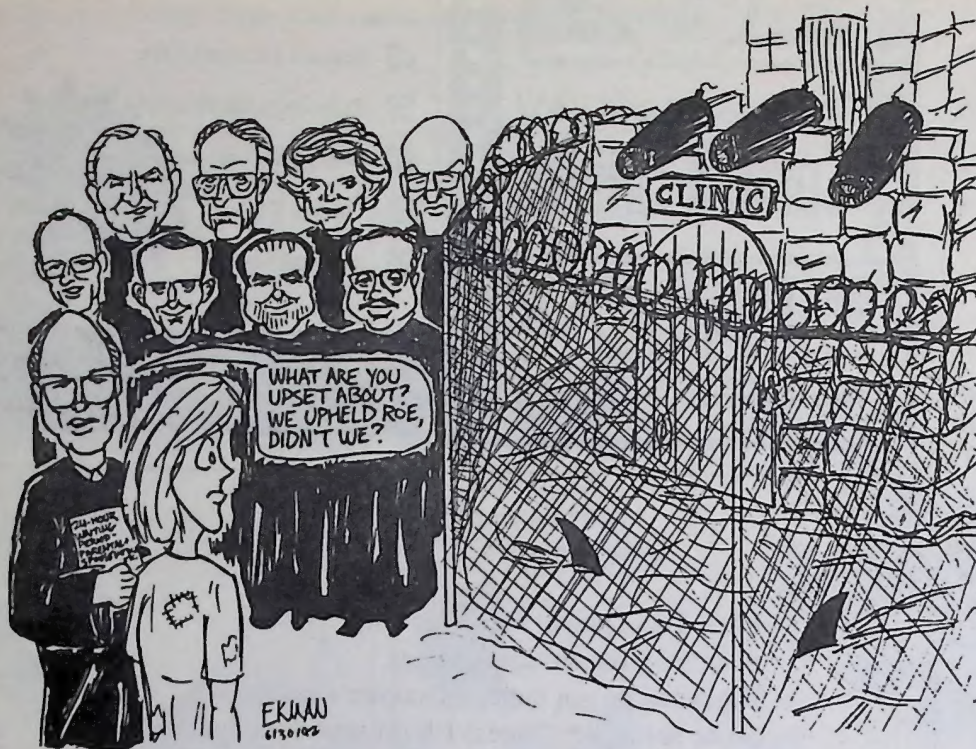
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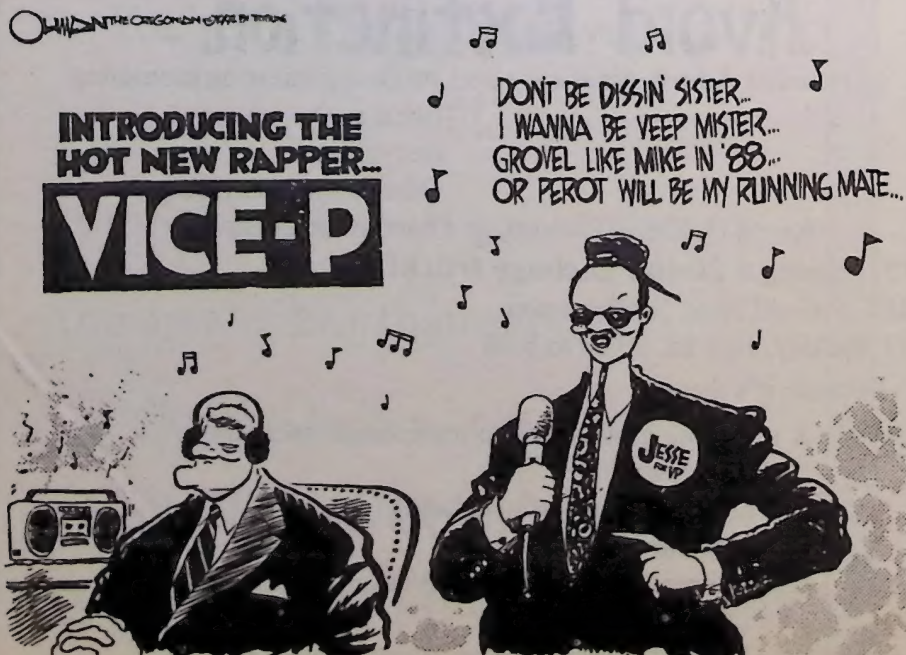
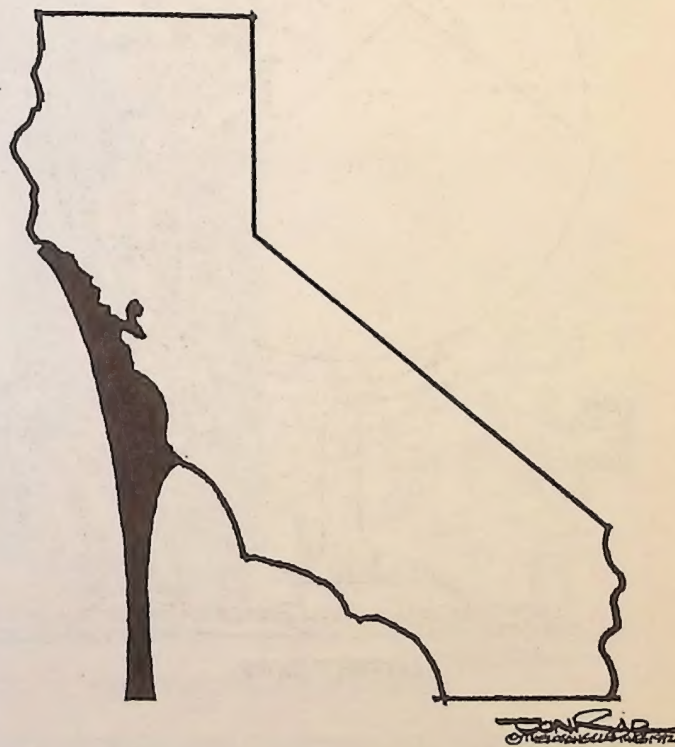
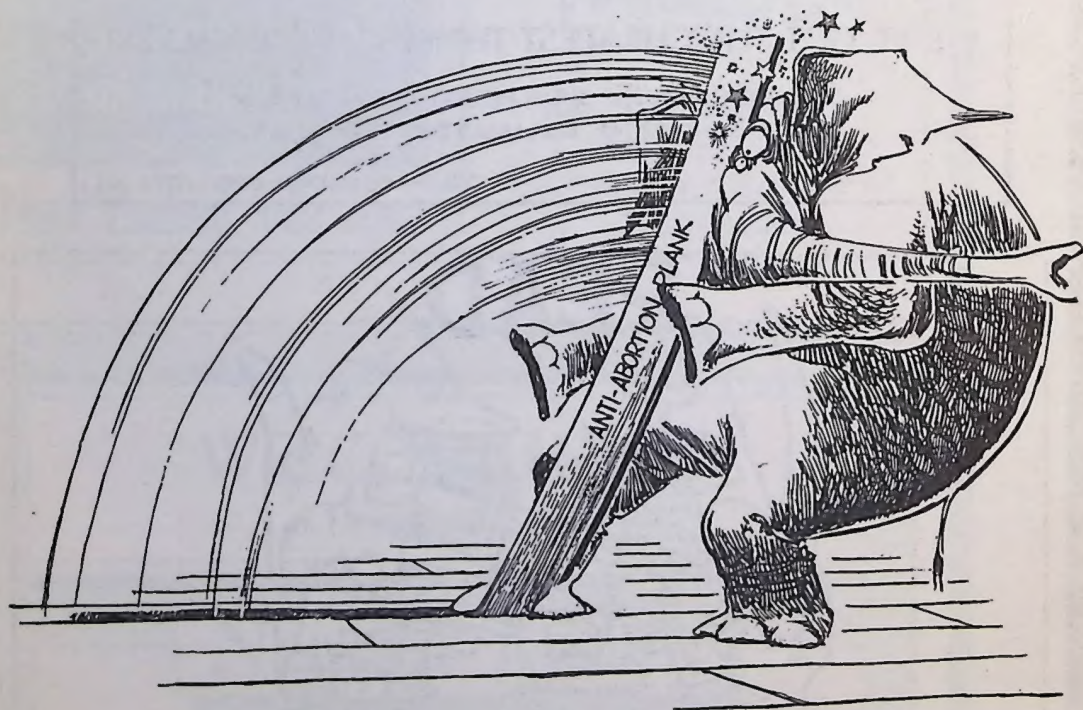
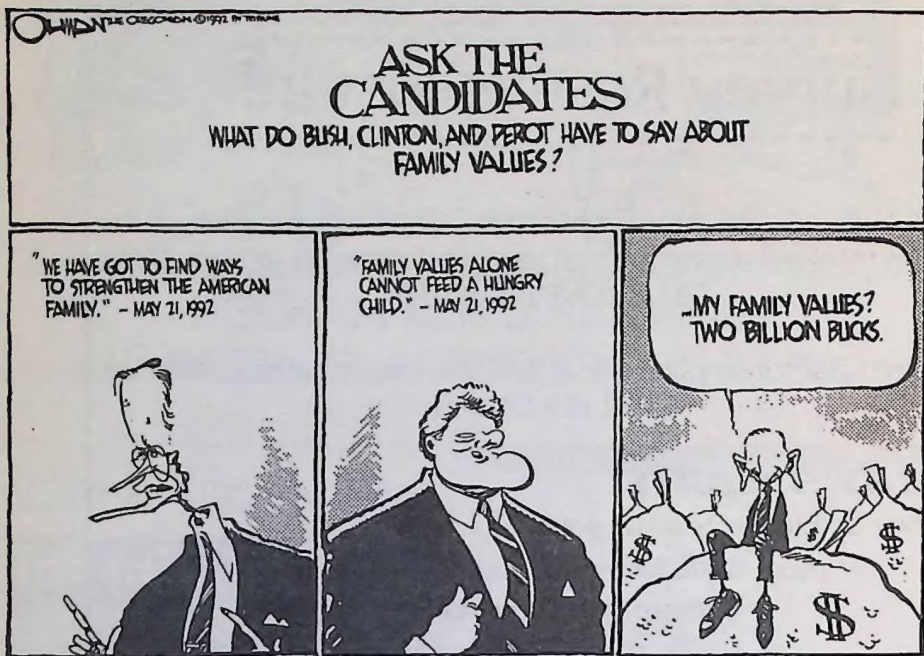


# COURTING DISASTER



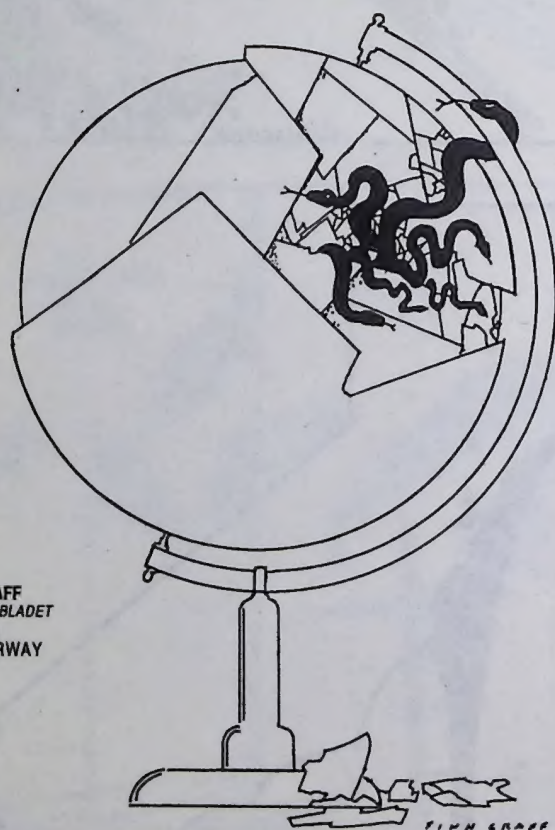
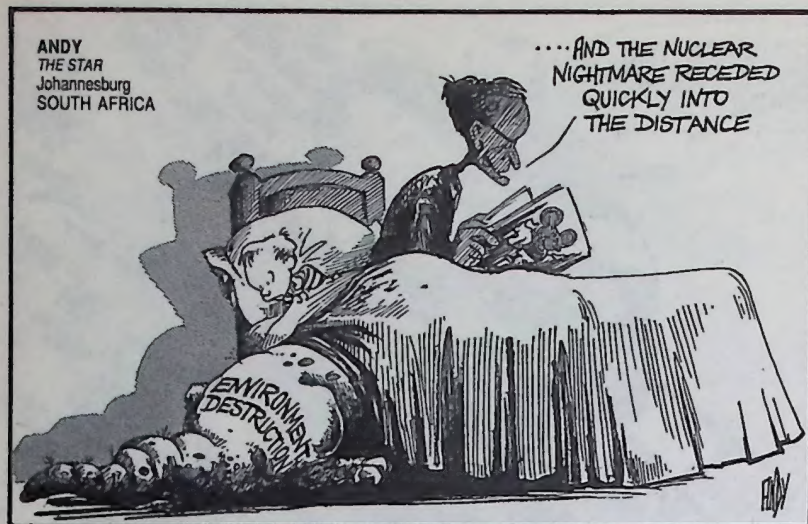


# OTHER STUFF





# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



EASTERN EUROPE



"HAROLD... REMEMBER OUR LAST TRIP TO THE STATES... WE GOT THAT PARKING TICKET AND YOU SAID "FORGET ABOUT IT"?"

GOOD NEWS  
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## Survey Results Just In!\*

99% of *Valley Comic News* subscribers reveal that for each of the 22 issues received during the past year, they averaged an astonishing 28 LAUGHS PER ISSUE!

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So hunt down the subscription form on pg. 3 and let the laughter begin.

\* The Comic News Impartial Survey, Inc.



## Avoid Extinction.

WHO? Cartoonists Across America, a non-profit organization promoting:

- Literacy
- Recycling
- Other Important Issues

Joined by Kevin Eastman & a band of other artists

WHAT? Painting a 20-ton garbage truck!!!!

WHERE? Pulaski Park, Northampton

WHEN? Sunday, July 12, 10:00 to 5:00

WHY? Because it's there

Local literacy & recycling groups will be represented, including:

- Forbes Library
- The Literacy Project (Greenfield)
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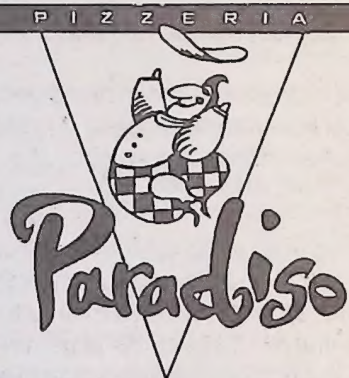
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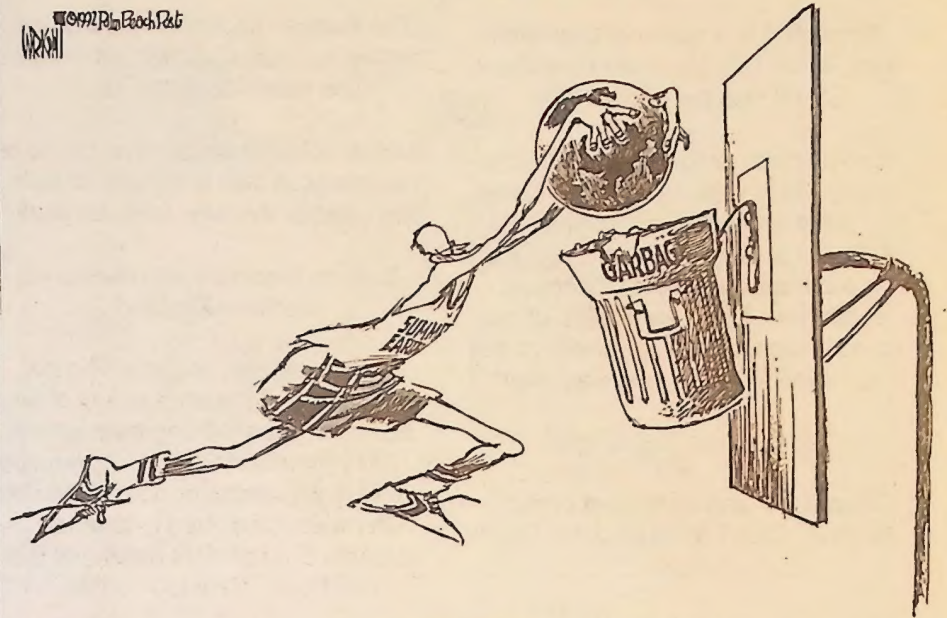
A Hospitality Service

## New In Town?

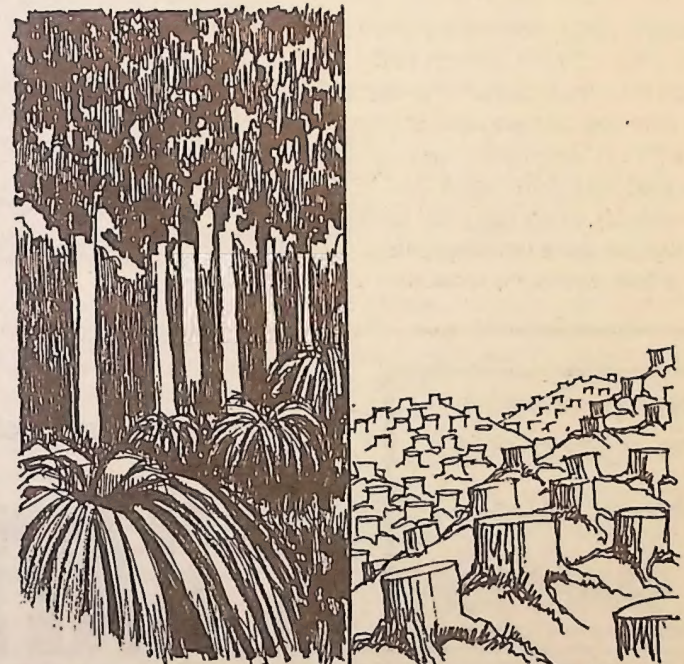
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## EARTH TO GEORGE...OVER...

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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

According to a maker of television sets, in the U.S. there are now about 53 TV sets per square mile.

Q. You said fear of speaking before groups is the No. 1 phobia. List the other more common phobias.

A. Fears of heights, insects, financial problems, deep water, sickness, death, rats, flying, loneliness, dogs, riding in cars, darkness, elevators and escalators. In no particular order.

The bee has 12,000 eyes.

Rome fell, and there went central heating. Didn't come back for 1,500 years.

Only one restaurant diner in every 50 fails to leave a tip, according to the trade reporters.

Surveytakers asked married owners of cellular phones if the phones had improved their marriages. Fifty-four percent said yes. Among 46 percent who didn't say yes, some said no, some said they didn't want to be available all day every day, and some said they just gave up the phones after a few weeks, no reasons.

The Russian hitchhiker doesn't use his thumb. Just stretches out his arm and points down the road.

Samuel Johnson wrote, "The cause of baldness in men is dryness of the brain and its shrinking from the skull."

Beer for breakfast was routine in Medieval England.

Q. Where's that village in France where none of the walls in any of the houses meet at 90-degree angles?

A. Saint Veran in the Alps. Its houses are of logs or stone or both. None of the walls is squared to another, because of an ancient belief that the Devil lurks in square corners.

"Zoopsia" is what it's called when a person sees terrifying animals in hallucinations. Flame-tongued snakes, maybe, or winged alligators.

One thing you can say about the giraffe: considering where it lives, it has hardly any enemies.

"A baby," said Carl Sandburg, "is God's opinion that life should go on."

Claim is 77 percent of American households have outdoor barbecues.

I note the averagers just got around to figuring out that students in American universities spend more on liquor than on books.

Sliced cucumbers in vinegar sauce was President U.S. Grant's preferred breakfast.

Q. It has been claimed that the strongest mammal on earth is woman. What's that based on?

A. Endurance. Ability to survive the greatest number of years.

A flight instructor tells beginning pilots: "If you haven't left the ground in the first half of the runway, abort the takeoff."

Sardines used to be cooked in the can only. But in 1907, a sardine shortage prompted one California canner to experiment. To keep his plant running, he precooked a tuna pack. That made the fish flaky, eliminated the oil taste, and changed the whole industry.

In *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville wrote: "In this world, shipmates, sin that pays its way can travel freely, and without a passport; whereas Virtue, if a pauper, is stopped at all frontiers."

In a recent study of 3,000 students, two-thirds of the girls aged 13 to 19 were dieting off fat, or trying to. Two-thirds of the boys in that bracket were pumping up muscle, or trying to.

That snake known as the sidewinder crawls in its peculiar manner for a reason. Only two points on its body touch the hot sand at one time.

Q. Where'd we get the word "above-board" to mean honest?

A. From card players. "Aboveboard" described players who kept their hands in view.

To the Scots of yestercentury, "glamour" meant "a magic spell."

Cabbage is 90 percent water.

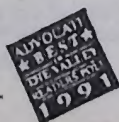
Q. Name the only President who admitted he had an illegitimate child.  
A. Grover Cleveland. He was elected twice.

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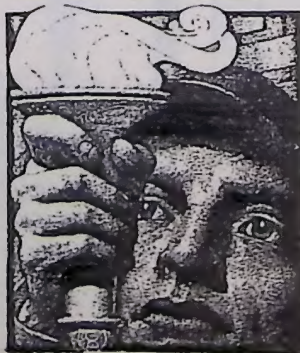
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## Droughts

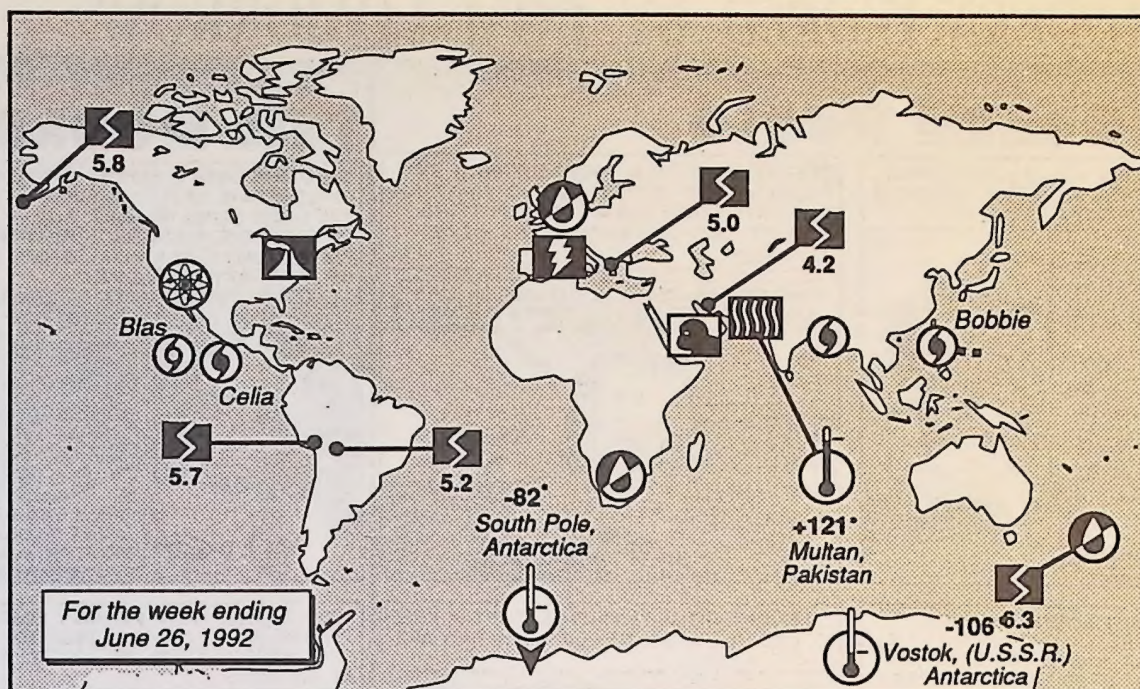
An unprecedented drought sweeping the South Pacific and Southeast Asia has dried up lakes in New Zealand, and the country's 3.4 million residents are facing months of draconian power cuts. Supermarket shelves have been stripped bare of candles and hot water bottles by people trying to keep warm in the southern hemisphere winter. Hydroelectric power has become so scarce that residential hot water systems in Auckland are required to be turned off for 17 hours each day.

Game officials in South Africa believe that while the worst drought to strike the region since records began in 1919 is caused by the human population, the long-term effects on wildlife could be positive. Koos van der Merwe, senior environmental officer at the Kruger National Park, is reluctant to help the thirsty, starving animals, preferring to let the drought "weed out the sick, lame and lazy," and strengthen the genetic pool.

The worst drought to affect northern Germany in more than 100 years has forced farmers to abandon parched fields of half-grown wheat and other crops. The federal government restricts pumping water from wells for agricultural uses.

## Volcanic Chill

The extremely late arrival of spring and the recent summer chill across much of southeastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. could be the result of volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines last June. NASA scientists at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., theorize that while the unseasonably cold weather is linked to volcanic material blocking sunlight, it should gradually start to ease during the next few months. "Based on previous experience, it takes three to four years for the stratosphere to cleanse itself," said researcher Lamont Poole.



## Mediterranean Storms

A line of freak thunderstorms, rumbling across the northeastern Mediterranean coast from Spain and southern France to the Principality of Monaco, brought two days of disastrous flash flooding to the resort region. Raging waters uprooted trees and swept away cars as river levels rose by as much as 10 feet.

## Heat Wave

Unrelenting heat across most of Pakistan and the western desert region of India killed approximately 50 people and caused many others to fall unconscious. Most people remained indoors to escape the searing summer sunshine. In Pakistan's twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, a line of heavy thunderstorms brought temporary relief, but increased humidity from the storms made the subsequent heat even more unbearable.

## Tropical Storms

A powerful tropical cyclone, which struck the coast of India's Orissa state on June 17, killed at least seven people and left 200 missing. The victims were crushed to death under uprooted trees in the Puri district.

Typhoon Bobby threatened northern Luzon Island in the Philippines with high waves and winds of up to 75 miles per hour late in the week.

Tropical storm Blas and hurricane Celia churned the eastern Pacific waters off Central America.

## Earthquakes

A moderate tremor measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck the east coast of New Zealand's North Island, cutting power and breaking glass. There was light damage from a weaker quake in northern Chile. Movements were also felt in Iran's Khuzestan province, Bolivia, the Greece-Albania border and the Aleutian Islands.

## Still Testing

The U.S. exploded two nuclear bombs within five days beneath the Nevada Desert. Both tests had a force of approximately 20 kilotons, and were conducted on June 19 and June 23.

## Baboon Bandits

Troops of wild baboons have begun attacking populated areas of southern Saudi Arabia in search of food. A study by the National Council for Wildlife Conservation revealed that the animals are raiding homes, farms, and gardens because tourists and residents have been feeding them, and leaving leftovers in garbage bins placed close to their natural habitats. The council hopes the baboons will eventually return to the wild if these practices are stopped.

**Additional Sources:** U.S. Military Joint Typhoon Warning Center at Guam, Max Planck Meteorological Institute, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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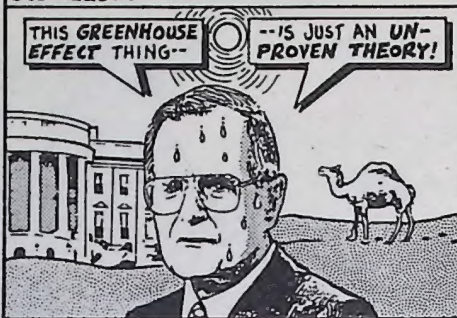
# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

## THIS MODERN WORLD

THE U.S., WITH 5% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, USES 25% OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY AND EMITS 22% OF ALL CO<sub>2</sub> PRODUCED...



DESPITE THESE FACTS, PRESIDENT BUSH REFUSED TO EVEN ATTEND THE RIO EARTH SUMMIT UNTIL PLANS FOR A TREATY PUTTING SPECIFIC CAPS ON CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS WERE SCUTTLED...



RATHER THAN ASK AMERICANS TO SACRIFICE, MR. BUSH WOULD PREFER THAT UNDERDEVELOPED THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES BEAR THE ECONOMIC BRUNT OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS...

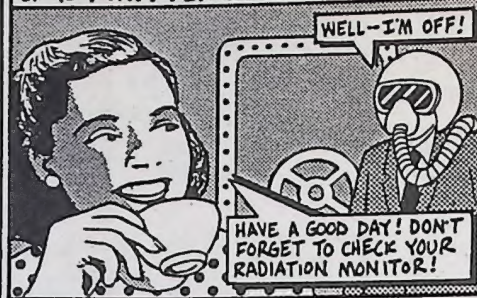


...LEAVING CITIZENS IN THIS COUNTRY FREE TO LIVE IN THE MANNER TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCUSTOMED...



## THIS MODERN WORLD

THE OZONE LAYER IS RAPIDLY VANISHING... SKIN CANCERS HAVE TRIPLED IN AUSTRALIA; ANIMALS ARE GOING BLIND IN CHILE; AND, ACCORDING TO NASA, THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE NOW FACES TEMPORARY ANNUAL OZONE LOSSES OF UP TO FORTY PERCENT...



UNFORTUNATELY, MAJOR CORPORATE C.F.C. PRODUCERS ARE STRONGLY MOTIVATED TO DENY THE VERY FACT OF OZONE DEPLETION--GIVEN THE CLASS-ACTION LIABILITY SUIT WHICH COULD ENSUE AFTER EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THE PLANET CONTRACTS SKIN CANCER...



SUBSEQUENTLY, THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS HAS BEEN TO DISPATCH MORALLY CORRUPT SCIENTISTS TO ASSERT THAT THERE IS NO CRISIS...



SO WHO CAN PROTECT THE OZONE? IN THIS COUNTRY THE JOB FALLS TO THE MAN IN CHARGE OF OUR NATION'S SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY... A MAN WHO IS, DISTURBINGLY, ALSO IN CHARGE OF AIDING CORPORATIONS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY--VICE PRESIDENT DAN QUAYLE (OR, AS WE LIKE TO CALL HIM, MR. POTATOE-HEAD)...



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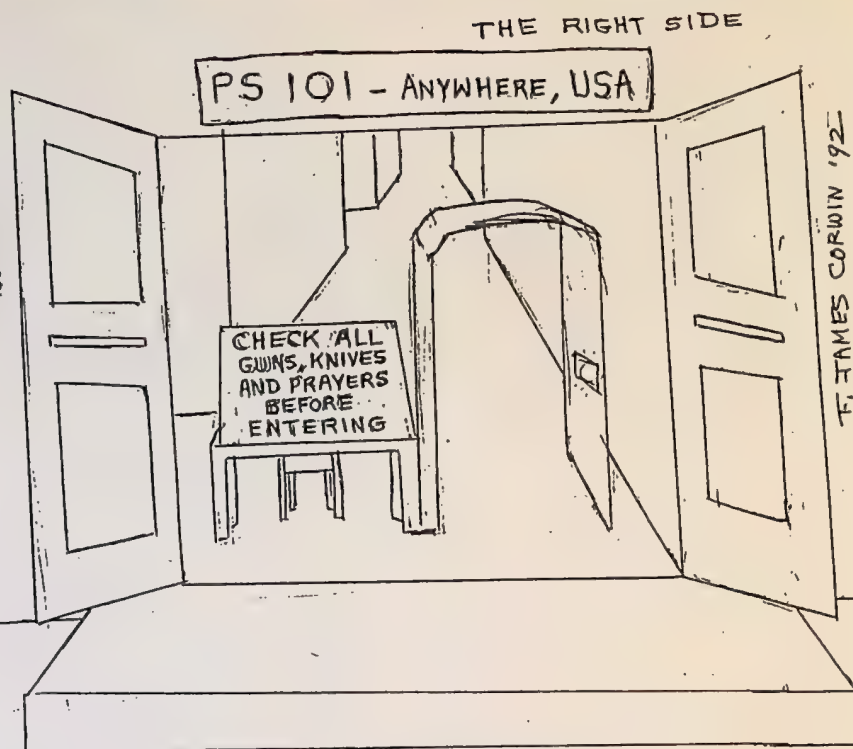
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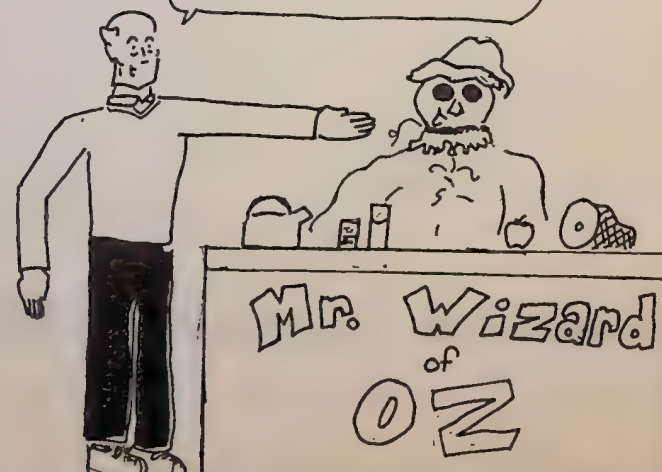


## LOCAL HEROES



ONE AUTUMN AFTERNOON, RANDY DISCOVERED THE DISCARDED BLADES OF HUNDREDS OF TINY ALIEN HELICOPTERS UNDER THE MAPLE TREE IN THE BACK YARD.

SO YOU SEE, SCARECROW,  
YOU CAN MAKE YOUR  
OWN BRAIN OUT OF  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.





# JOE BOB BRIGGS PART I

Here's a topic to make your eyes glaze over:

Insider trading.

Every week there's new stuff in the paper about it. I *try* to understand this stuff. I really do. They just nailed seven more guys, including Martin Revson, of Revlon cosmetics fame, and Edward Downe Jr., a New York social bigwig who was head of an investment bank called Bear Stearns. Ever since Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky, there's been a couple *thousand* of these indictments, it seems like.

So I got a few questions about it myself:

1. If there were this many guys involved, in this many top American companies, then it seems like at least some of them must have *thought it was okay*. Obviously, it's been going on in a big way since around 1980, and the SEC is just now starting to get it all cleaned up. And you could understand if it was just one or two crooks, or even a dozen. But when something gets this big, you have to wonder:

Was there some general unwritten agreement among these guys that, "Oh, what the hell, insider trading — it's not like it's a *real* crime"?

It's kind of like jaywalking in New York City. The first time you do it, you feel a little guilty. But after you see *thousands* of other people doing it, you finally think, "Oh, what the hell, if I don't step in front of the traffic, he will, so what the hell — here goes nothing." And pretty soon you're a *veteran* jaywalker, and it just seems like a part of life. It doesn't even seem like a crime anymore.

Is this what happened to these guys, because it's the only thing I can figure out.

2. If they really did steal millions of dollars, then why should we put them in "white-collar" prisons? Even the very *best* bank robber is gonna get — what? — maybe \$500,000, if he's *really* lucky. A great burglar can clear a million if he hits the right house. But it seems like the *less* money you steal, the more time you spend in jail, and the worse jail you

spend it in. A lot of 7-11 robbers only get twenty bucks, but those are the guys pulling 50-year sentences at Attica. These "insider trading" guys steal three, four million — much more in the cases of Boesky and Milken — and they're likely to get two years in a recreational prison that looks like a college dormitory.

If they really did steal that much money, I say send 'em to the Big House.

3. Why don't we call 'em by their real names?

These are guys that, by manipulating a stock or a pension fund or some other financial instrument, are *literally* robbing widows and orphans. There are people in *nursing homes* whose money is affected by this kind of manipulation. There are estates, trusts, credit unions, pension funds, mutual funds, money market funds — all kinds of accounts set up specifically for farmers in Iowa, single mothers in San Antonio, forklift operators in Mobile — people working so hard that they don't have the time to watch every move some guy in a Wall Street office makes, in order to

protect the money they've spent a lifetime saving.

You rob these people, and you are a much *lower* breed of scum than the average 7-11 robber. The 7-11 robber might have a weapon, but the guy behind the counter might have a weapon, too — and the robber has to be brave enough to go in, face to face, and *take* the money. The "inside trader" has a much stronger weapon — namely, *secrecy*. He can commit the entire crime without anyone actually *seeing* him do it. And he doesn't have to be brave at all, because the person he's taking the money from doesn't have any weapons, and he never has to face him anyway.

These aren't "inside traders." They're cowardly hoodlums.

Get rid of 'em.

# JOE BOB BRIGGS PART II

I think the world might be slowing down. I'm not kidding about this. I'm not on drugs or anything. I really mean this.

Have you noticed, when you're watching late-night movies, how people 50 years ago *talked faster* and *moved faster* than we do?

I don't mean the silent films where the Nazi storm-troopers march in triple-time. That's because the films were shot at 18 frames per second, but they show 'em on TV at 24 frames per second, and so it *looked* like everybody is moving faster. (By the way, you would think after about 30 years of watching these silent films at the *wrong speed*, somebody would figure it out and show 'em at 18 frames a second on TV so we can see how the people really looked. But that's getting off the subject.)

Anyway, if you watch the movies of the 1930's, you'll notice that the dialogue is very fast. There are no pregnant pauses. No stuttering, hemming or hawing. People talk, answer, reply, listen, talk, answer, listen, reply — but they don't ever *stop*.

At first I thought this was maybe just a *style* they used in the movies — that they wanted to keep it moving, no matter how dramatic the scene. But I don't think so, for two reasons. One is that these people don't ever seem to be *rushing*. They're talking at a normal, comfortable speed. It's just faster than we talk today. And a second reason is that my grandpa had some tapes of old Elks meetings, with formal speeches and kidding around and awards presentations and "roasts," and I got the same impression: these guys *talked faster* than we do.

And now I've verified it. I took a bunch of old movie scripts from the thirties and forties, and I compared the number of pages in the script to the running time of the movie. And I just looked at a few of them, but it was very clear. The old scripts were about 150 pages for a 100-minute movie. *Today's* scripts are about 110 pages for a 120-minute movie. The only way to explain this is that they *talked faster*.

Then I started thinking about the number of times, back when I was

doing stand-up comedy, that I would notice how *slow* people were to respond. I used to pick guys out of the audience and say, "Are you married?" — just so I could see *how long* it would take the person to answer. Some guys would sit there forever — and, of course, the audience would laugh, because they thought the guy was *avoiding the question*. It might be that he just couldn't *answer* any faster than that. (This was especially funny when the wife was sitting beside him, *waiting to see what he said!*)

But go to some event where people are aged 65 and older, and they have absolutely no trouble answering immediately. You say, "How old are you?" And the guy pipes right up: "Eighty-seven!" Sometimes they're great ad-libbers, too. They're likely to say, "Eighty-seven, but I tell the ladies I'm eighty-five!"

So obviously there's a big difference between the ability of *this* generation to just spit out what they're thinking about, and the ability of our parents' and grandparents' generation to say the

same thing. I have a friend who teaches acting to young people, and notices this, too. He has students who always allow a full second or two to elapse before they respond to their partner. Of course, by then all the spontaneity has gone out of their response, and so their acting is cornball.

When did we become mutes? Wasn't this supposed to be the century where everything got *faster*?

I have a theory about this.

We're chicken. We're too chicken to say anything. We have a thousand forms of shorthand. We stammer to make people think we're thoughtful, we stare to make people think we're tough. We hem and haw to make people think we're really trying. We do everything except *talk*.

This is boring. Even if Marlon Brando is doing it, if you've seen it more than two or three times, it starts to get boring.

Let's start talking again.

Let's speed it up.



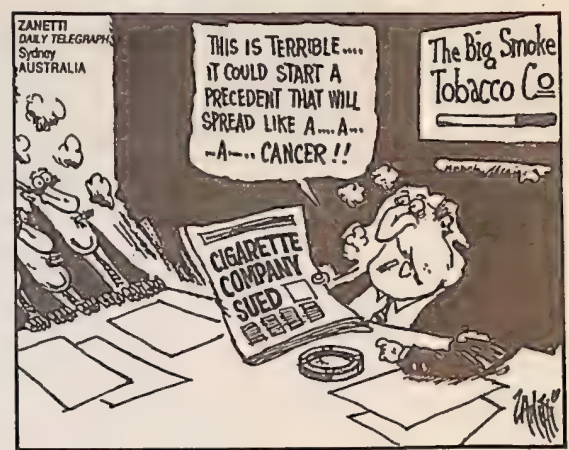
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"It's a dove!" "It's a hawk!" "No. It's Itzhak Rabin!"



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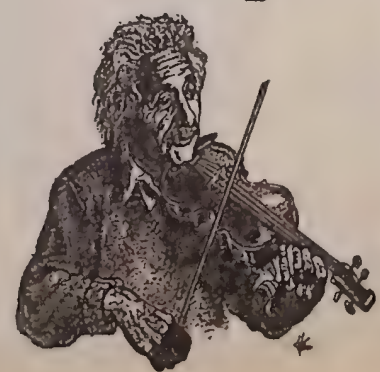
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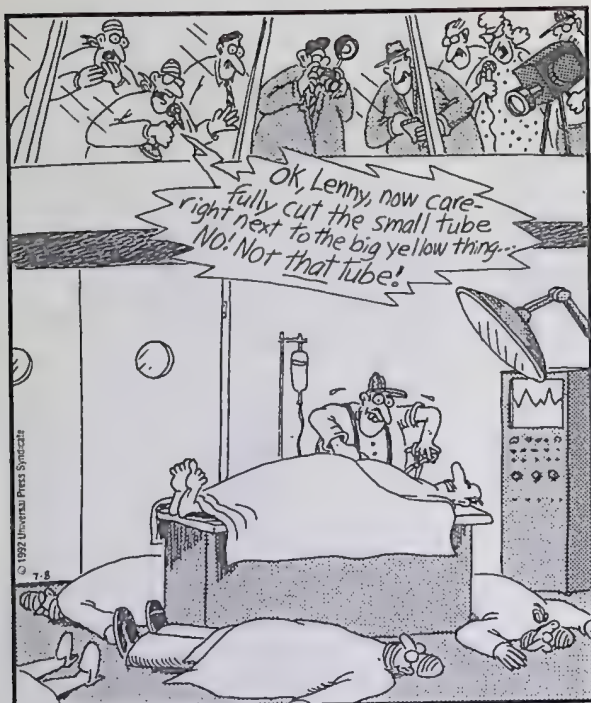
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# THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



With the surgical team passed out, and with help from the observation deck, hospital custodian Leonard Knudson suddenly became responsible for bringing Mr. Gruenfeld "home."



"Yeah. My boss don't appreciate me either. To him I'm just a gofer. 'Igor! Go for brains! ... Igor! Go for dead bodies! ... Igor! Go for sandwiches!' ... I dunno — give me another beer."



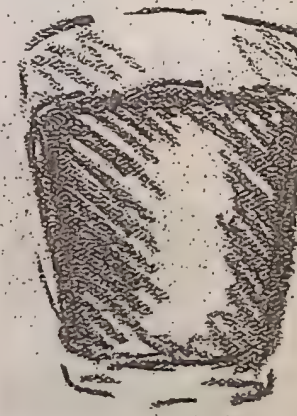
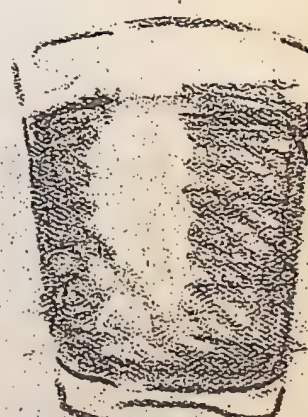
Onward they pushed, through the thick, steamy jungle, separately ruing the witch doctor's parting words: "Before you leave this valley, each of you will be wearing a duck."

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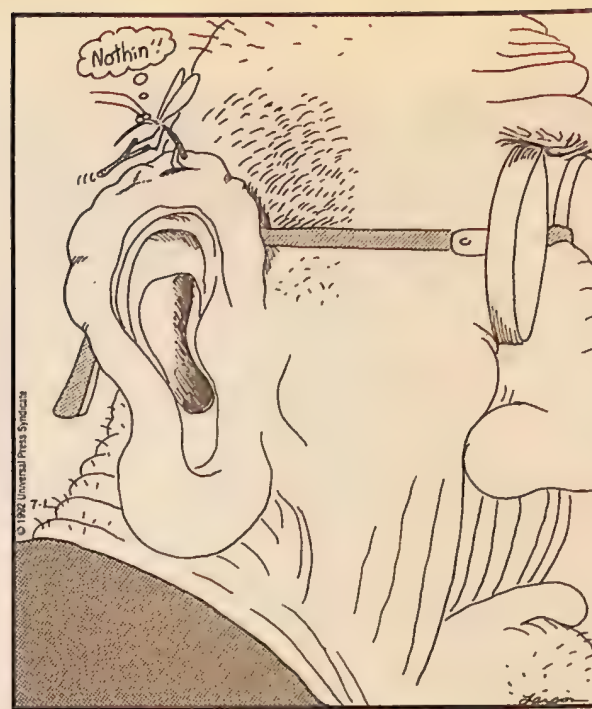




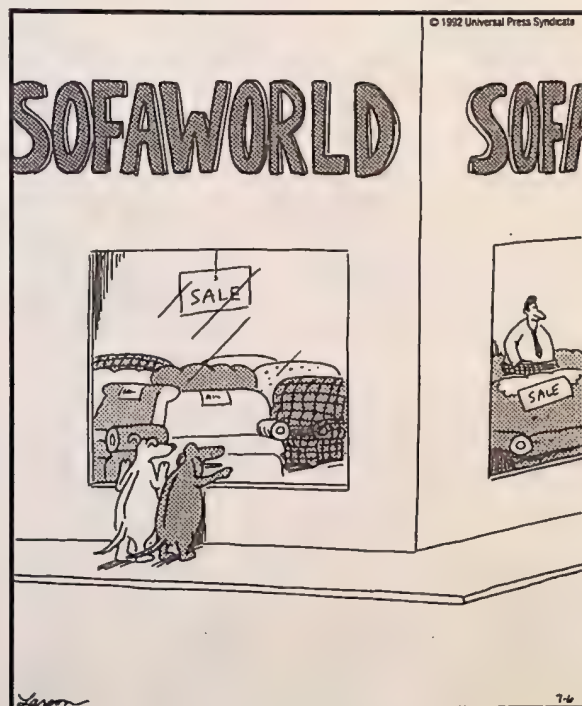
Common butt stickers of the Old West



"Whoa whoa whoa, young man!  
You walk the plank like everyone else!"



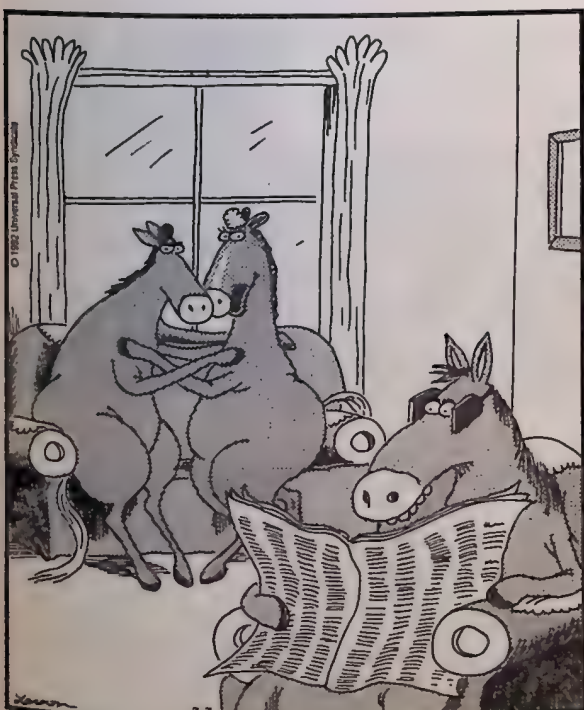
Insect witching rods



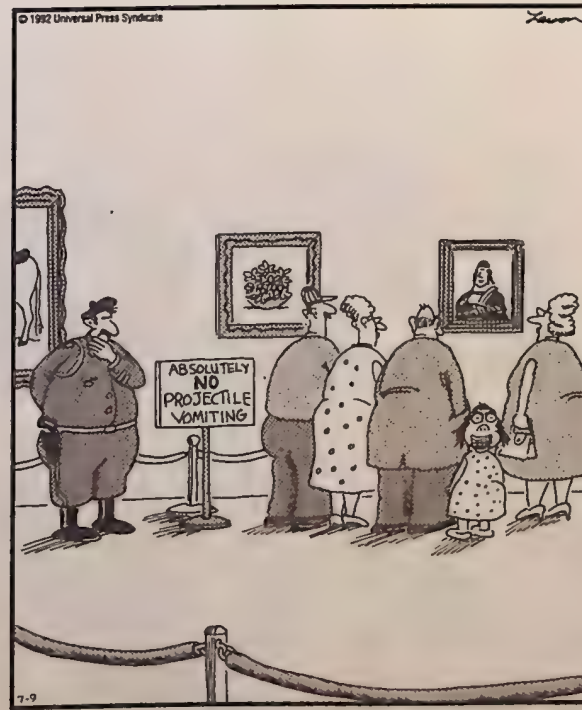
"Oo! I'd get up on that big fuzzy one!"



"Dogs that drink from the toilet bowl — after this."



"We can't go on like this, Ramone. . . . One day,  
George is bound to take his blinders off."



A Louvre guard is suddenly unsettled by  
the arrival of Linda Blair.





# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

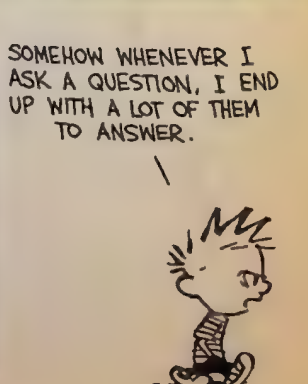
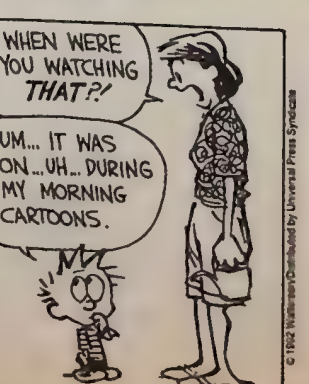
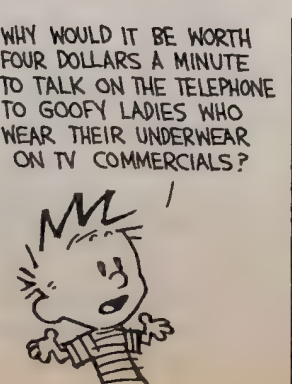
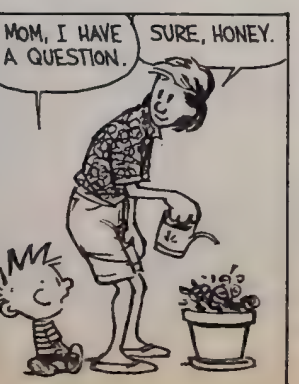
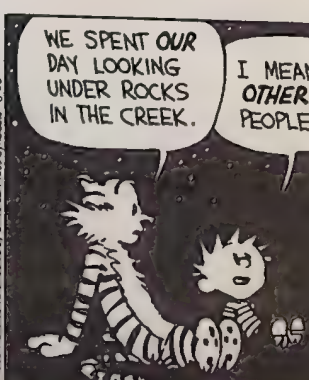
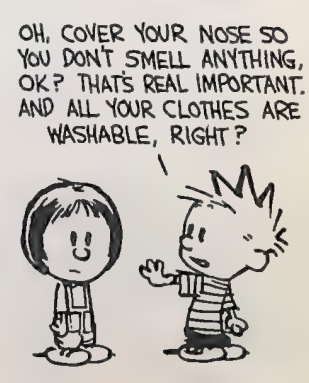
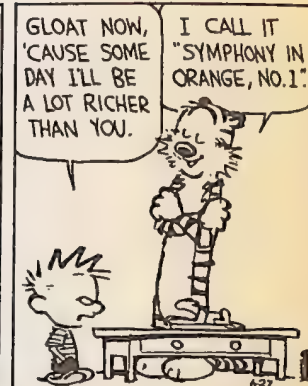
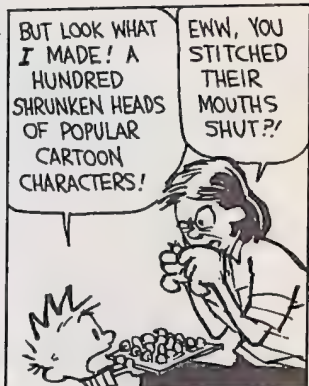
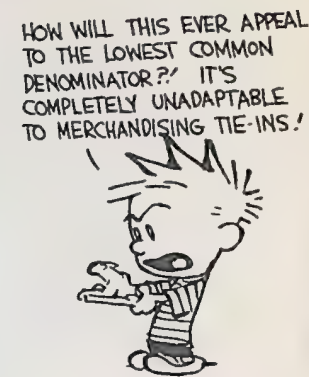
When we were young some of the kids used to force little Joey to bite the heads off of crickets.

If he didn't do it they'd keep punching him in the arm until he did.

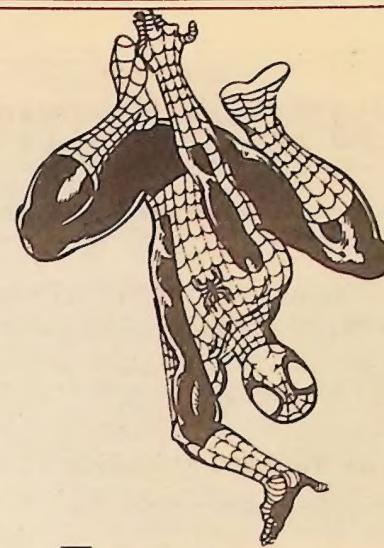
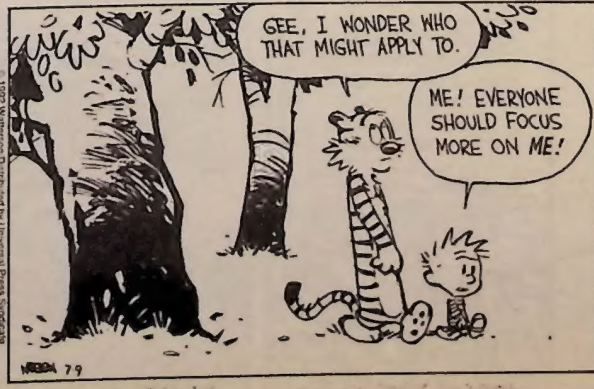
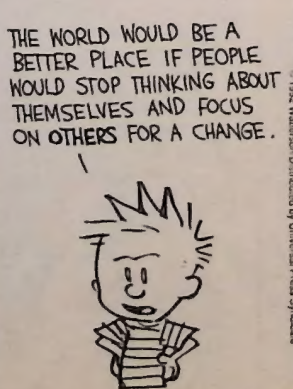
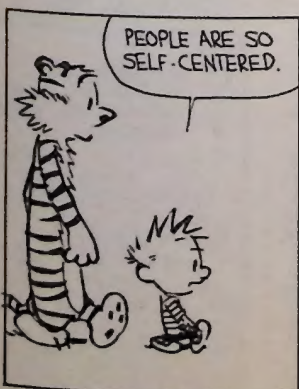
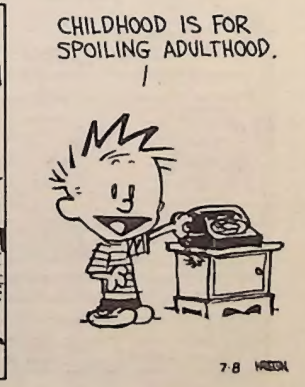
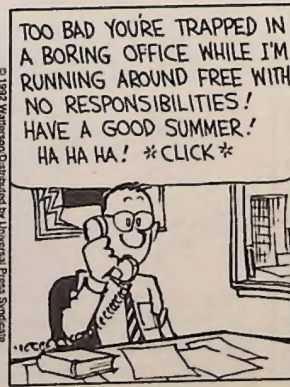
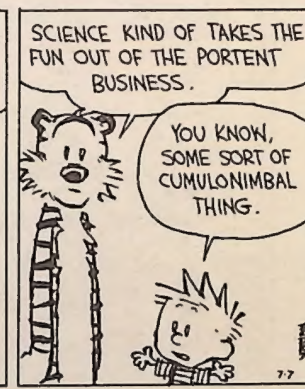
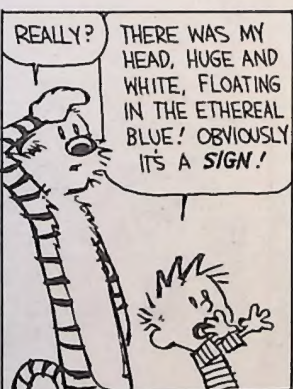
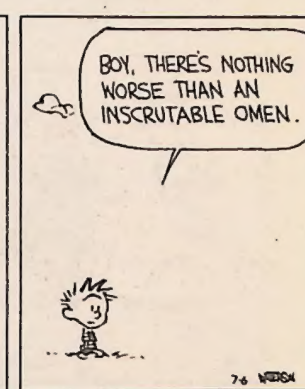
One time they had to punch him 30 or 40 times before he ate it.

He went to college to become an entomologist.

Who knows what he did alone at night in the labs?







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# humor me

by Izzy Gesell

I was intrigued by the concept of the Pregaphone, a device that allows parents to communicate with an unborn child in the womb. The gadget's catchy slogan: "because bonding begins before birth," caught my eye, so I decided to use the Pregaphone to call an unborn friend of mine. Wouldn't you know, he was unable to come to the phone; I was forced to leave a message on his fetal answering machine. I guess avoiding your mother's phone calls also begins before birth.

When he called me back I asked, "How's it going in there? Have you been getting many calls?"

"Yeah, lots of people are trying to communicate with us and, frankly, I wish they'd cut it out. This is the only quiet time we have before entering your noisy, crowded, tough world. You adults keep trying to increase our intelligence and creativity. You read to us, play music and explain what's going on in the world. All in the hope that we'll be less trouble for you."

"What's wrong with that?"

"Well, it's not so bad that you want to increase our intelligence, although studying for an IQ test is kinda cramped in here..."

"So you're saying that it doesn't work?"

"Oh, it works all right. We do become smarter and more creative, which is a handicap when we finally come out because nobody seems to care about us then. It's no wonder that kids are disillusioned these days. While we're in here you make us believe you care about us and that we are so important, but when we're born our intelligence is the last thing you worry about."

"Why do you say that?"

"Look at the lousy way school programs are funded. If adults cared about children out of the womb as much as they claim to prenatally, education and health care would be a priority. But it's not, so if you adults are going to pay more attention to us in the womb than out, me and some friends are forming a fetal PAC to lobby for kid's rights."

"It sure sounds like the beginnings of a political movement. What are your other demands?"

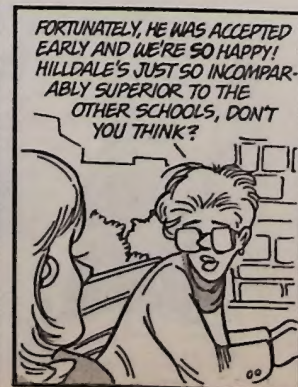
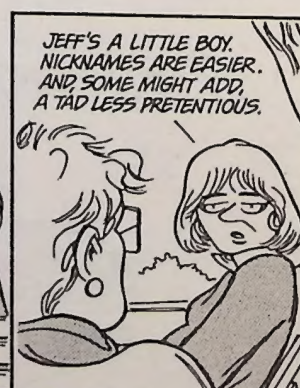
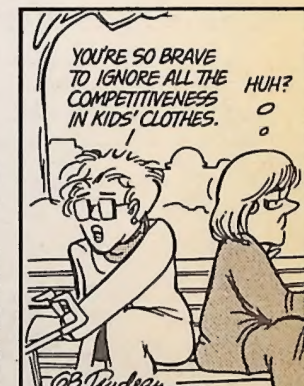
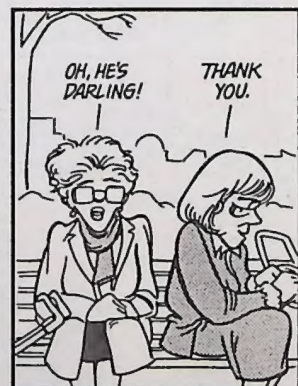
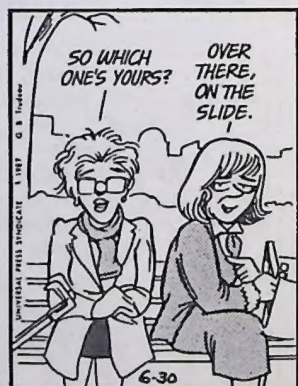
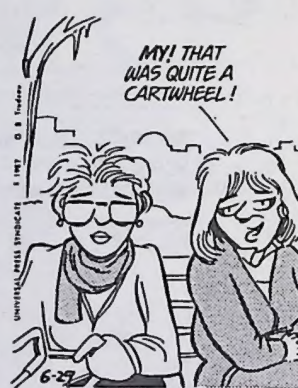
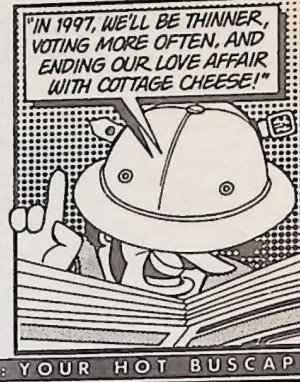
"Names given to babies should be temporary. Kids should be able to choose their own names at the age of 13. Why should a person be stuck with a name just because a parent liked it? And we think something should be done about hyphenating last names. In a couple of generations it's going to be totally out of hand. Let's say that Jane Doe marries John Smith. Their family uses a hyphenated last name, and the kid becomes Heather Smith-Doe. Eventually Heather marries Barry Cronkite-Finklestein, and their kid is Alexis Smith-Doe-Cronkite-Finklestein. By the time Alexi marries Prudence Baines-Johnson-Shabazz-Olsen, their kid's name is going to be longer than a train station sign in Wales."

"I see. And you use the Pregaphone to stay in touch with each other, right?"

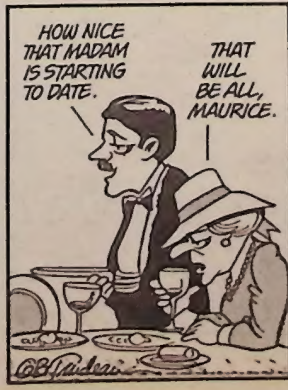
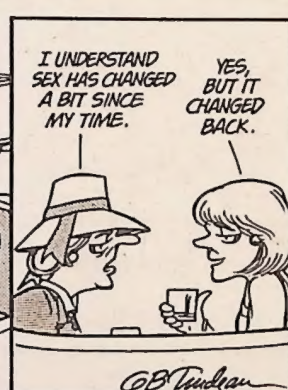
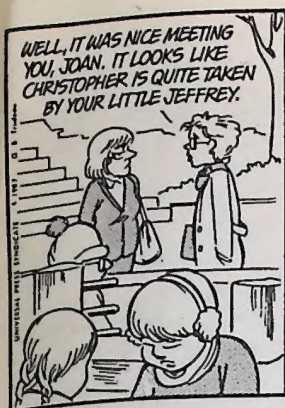
"No way. That phone line is too easy to tap. We use Prega Fax."

# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU







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